

THE ARCHIVES.—A report was brought to this city a few days since, to the effect that Gen. Houston had despatched an armed force to Austin, under command of Mr. T. Smith of Washington county, with secret orders to remove the archives *vi et armis* from that city. This report seemed so unreasonable that we gave little credence to it. We could scarcely believe it possible that the President, while the best soldiers of Travis and Bastrop counties are absent with the army fighting the battles of their country, could order an armed force of their own countrymen to

invade their peaceful homes and light the fires of civil war around their dwellings. We have however received a letter from a gentleman at Washington containing the full details of this unfortunate expedition. He says that, orders were issued a few weeks ago to Mr. T. Smith to raise 150 men, if possible, and proceed to Austin to remove the archives. A considerable body of troops were collected, under the impression that they were to go out on an expedition against the Indians; but when the orders were read to them, most of them refused to go to Austin and returned to their homes. After much difficulty twenty men were engaged, and fifteen wagons from the vicinity of Nashville. They went to Austin and loaded the wagons in open day, and started for the Brazos. In the meantime the citizens of Austin had sent runners down the Colorado and raised a company of ninety men, well armed and mounted. They took a light field piece and gave pursuit. They overtook the company with the archives about twenty miles from Austin, surrounded it, and placing the cannon in front, and ordered Captain Smith to halt or they would fire upon him. The Captain doubtless conceiving discretion in this instance to be the better part of valor, halted his company, and was escorted back with his wagons and the archives to Austin. Thus ended this strange expedition, which has tended more than any other measure to exasperate the citizens in that section against the Executive.

The citizens of Austin have hitherto declared that if Congress should pass a law requiring the removal of the archives, they will cheerfully assent to it; but that they will resist to the last extremity any attempt of the President to remove them by his own order. It is fortunate for the country that this affair has terminated without blood shed. The consequences would have been terrible indeed, if the work of human butchery had once commenced.